

♠♥♦♣ BIDDING AGAINST A PREEMPT ♠♥♦♣

Everyone is vulnerable and West was the dealer. He opened 3♠. This is a preemptive bid, and at this vulnerability, shows a good 7-card spade suit and enough to take about 7 tricks. North doubled for take-out and East passed. This was the South hand:

S	South
♠	102
♥	J1053
♦	106
♣	AKQ43

This South advanced 4♣, which became the final contract. West led the ♠K and this dummy came down:

N	North
♠	A94
♥	AKQ96
♦	AJ5
♣	95

West leads ♠K

S	South
♠	102
♥	J1053
♦	106
♣	AKQ43

South took 1 spade, 5 hearts, 1 diamond, and because the clubs split 4-2, took only 4 club tricks. She made one overtrick for a score of +150.

Do you agree with this bidding? Could the pair do better?

When your partner doubles for takeout and you have a 4-card major, you must bid that major before mentioning your 5-card minor. This is true even if you minor is much better than your major. If there is only one major suit available, as in this hand, then partner is sure to have 4 of them. He wants to be in a major suit game and probably has shortness in one of the minors. This is certainly true here.

This is the proper bidding sequence

West	North	East	South
3♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

*Key Card Blackwood

North became excited when he learned about the heart fit. He had his eye on a slam but needed a stopper to take care of his low club doubleton. South showed one key card with his 5♣ bid, and that must be the ♣A since North held all the other key cards along with the queen of trump.

With the ♠K lead, South won the ♠A, pulled trump in 3 rounds and played the top clubs, discarding a diamond on the 3rd club. He had to ruff the 4th club, but after throwing West in with a spade, ruffed the spade return in her hand and discarded dummy's second diamond on the good 5th club. South made her slam and gathered 1430 points instead of the 150 points in the club part score.

Look at the entire deal:

	N North ♠ A94 ♥ AKQ96 ♦ AJ5 ♣ 95	<table border="1"> <tr><th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>X</td><td>P</td><td>4♥</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>4NT</td><td>P</td><td>5♣</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>6♥</td><td>P</td><td>P</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	3♠	X	P	4♥	P	4NT	P	5♣	P	6♥	P	P	P			
	W	N	E	S																		
3♠	X	P	4♥																			
P	4NT	P	5♣																			
P	6♥	P	P																			
P																						
W West ♠ KQJ8763 ♥ 2 ♦ Q87 ♣ 102	E East ♠ 5 ♥ 874 ♦ K9432 ♣ J876																					
	S South ♠ 102 ♥ J1053 ♦ 106 ♣ AKQ43	6♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0																				

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/yy5w2ttn>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.